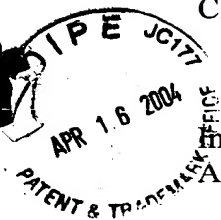


Attorney Docket: 060258-0277904

Client Reference: 2990403US/Ka/kp



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of: JOKINEN

Application No.: 09/787,514

Confirmation Number: 2341

Group Art Unit: 2643

#7
5-1-01
82

Filed: March 19, 2001

Examiner: Taylor, Barry W.

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR BILLING SUBSCRIBERS IN A
TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK (AS AMENDED)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

RECEIVED

APR 22 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 18, 2003, the due date for which having been extended one (1) month to April 18, 2004, please reconsider the patentability of the rejected claims based on the following remarks. Claims 1-17 are pending.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Block et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,938) in view of Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,348). Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Block in view of Walker and further in view of Antonello et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,469).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections because none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the features of independent claims 1 and 7.

For example, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest a subscriber billing group that has at least two subscribers, wherein each subscriber in the billing group has an assigned billing account, as recited in independent claims 1 and 7.

In direct contrast to the claimed invention, Block merely discloses a billing group in which "there can be one debit or credit account covering multiple subscribers." Block further

teaches that “[s]ervice group billing permits subscribers to charge telephone, paging, cellular, and other communication services to a single account.” (Col. 13, line 56 to col. 14, line 9.) Therefore, in Block, each subscriber in a billing group does not have a separate billing account. Instead, the billing group as a whole—not the individual subscribers—has a billing account. Moreover, in section 1 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Office Action referred to “the single account as taught by Block.” Thus, the Office Action has conceded that Block does not teach that each subscriber of a billing group has an assigned billing account.

Neither Walker nor Antonello remedies the deficiencies of Block. In particular, Walker merely teaches “linking the first and second persons to a financial account that is used for the transaction” (Abstract), such as a parent and child who use the same account (col. 4, lines 46-48). Similarly, Antonello merely discloses transmitting metering pulses via a wireless local loop (WLL). (Abstract.)

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has not established a prima facie case of obviousness of claims 1 and 7. Therefore, the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, Applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of all pending claims. If anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants’ undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

JOKINEN - 09/787,514
Client/Matter: 060258-0277904

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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